bowed deity invested in all his godlike attributes in the unquarried marble. But he could not bear to see him hampered there in a shroud before his mind's eye. He seized his chisel, and with indignant strokes, he tore away the ceremental marble, and let out the god before his body's eye, to be worshipped by millions, who, if they dared, might even touch his marble flesh. All the beautiful orders of architecture and creations of the pencil, all the conceptions of the beautiful in nature and art, and humanity, are inventions extorted, as it were, from the mind, to extend and increase the pleasures of sense.

INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT OF PARISH CHURCHES.

AT a recent meeting of the Northampton Architectural Society (Lord Northampton in the chair), after a lecture on "Glass-painting," the Rev. Thomas James read a paper on the "Internal Arrangement and Fitting-up of Churches."

Starting with the principle that all plans for church fittings should keep in view the fact that our churches are houses of prayer, Mr. James proceeded to state, that all the sittings should be alike, or, if there were any distinction, the advantage should be given to those who were most peculiarly the objects of the Church's care. There should be no secrecy, and, therefore, no doors; no reclining backs to tempt people to lounge. The seats should be all open, low, straight-backed, all alike; with kneeling places facing the east. The seats should be sufficiently broad, because, although the luxuries of the drawing-room were inappropriate in a church, yet a state of absolute discomfort was no help to devotion. The old oak seats were inconveniently narrow, and the rail above pressed uncomfortably against the back. A book-board is advisable, not so much for the book as for the arms to rest on when kneeling. Whether there should be a continuous kneeling-board or a hassock was disputed. The seats, however, should be closed beneath. Mr. James then proceeded to describe the mode in which seats should be arranged in different descriptions of churches. He concluded this section of his subject by observing, that from twenty to fifty per cent. additional accommodation might be obtained by having open seats. The pulpit should be on the north side of the chancel arch, and of a half-polygon shape, and low. Mr. James advocated the use of the lectern, of which the most beautiful form is the eagle. He recalled to the recollection of some of his hearers the fine one in the church at Oundle. The font should be the first object to catch the eye on entering; it should not stand in the centre, as is frequently the case, but against one of the western pillars. If there is room there should be at least three steps, and a projecting stone for the priest. A pavement of warm-coloured sandstone, of irregular sizes, he thought better than the white flags or the black and white squares, which have too domestic an appearance. The best and cheapest paving is of encaustic tiles, which should be laid diagonally. The pavement of the chancel should be richer than that of the rest of the church, and the arms of the benefactors would form appropriate ornaments. All shams are to be avoided. All canons and texts should be written intelligibly. He need scarcely say a word against galleries. Public opinion had condemned them; they were generally the refuge of the petty aristocracy in towns, and of the disorderly in villages. Nor was the organ an excuse for having one at the west end. The best position for the organ was on the ground towards the east, at the end of the aisle; being brought more into the body of the church, it would conduce to congregational singing. Some mistakes have been committed in throwing open the chancel-arch too much. The chancel itself, where there is sufficient room elsewhere, should be without any seats for the congregation. Where rood-screens and side-screens exist, they should be repaired and retained, but never introduced. They should be considered in an architectural and archæological, not in an ecclesiological view. The old sedilia, where they exist, should be restored to use, and where they do not, they should be introduced. Every thing in the shape of altar-chairs is objectionable, as partaking too much of a domestic character. Mr. James concluded by observing that his object was to stem the tide of mischief which had set in with respect to church alterations. He admitted that the Architectural Society had done good, but it was almost a question whether it had not done an equal amount of harm, in inducing repairs by persons who understood nothing of the right principles upon which they should be conducted. Many churches, he found, had been tampered with, and left in a worse condition than they were before—worse, because the great outlay and the substantial character of the work left little chance that it would ever be undone. He would rather see churches left untouched than restored half-right, half-wrong, as was the too prevalent fashion.

CONDITION OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS AND DRAUGHTSMEN.

SIR,—All who have studied architecture must know that the student who is about to enter the profession has a work of great difficulty before him. He is taken rough from school, and placed in the office of an architect, who receives him for a term of four or five years at a high premium; his occupation for the period of his articles is to copy drawings, and perhaps occasionally make out fair drawings for competitions, &c., but in nine cases out of ten this is the only instruction he receives during the period. We know, from experience, that an architect in full practice has little time to spare to instruct his pupil, or to point out to him the course of study he should go through, or the books he should peruse (and under such circumstances ought not to take pupils into his office), so the only information which he obtains is gleaned from the head clerks of the office, and is usually quite insufficient to compensate him for the time lost and the money paid, or to fit him for such a profession as architecture. Is there no way to remedy such an error? Will the profession allow such an evil to exist without aiding, as far as they can, to remove it? Something must be done to improve the system. Look to him when the student is out of his time, a young architect,—what are his prospects? He is ill-fitted to ask for pay, being able to do but little, and finds a difficulty in procuring an engagement. Sooner than lose what little knowledge he possesses, he enters an office as an improver, not thinking of the injury he is inflicting on his more advanced brethren in keeping them from being employed at a salary.

The young man who has been fortunate and industrious, and has spent his spare hours in study and reflection, will find the pecuniary recompense from an office comparatively nothing when he considers the money he has spent in learning his art, and can only trust to exertion and a lucky star to lead him to fame. The student must push on and waste no time, but something should be done to make his course easier and more profitable. Before closing these remarks, I would suggest the establishment of a society for the relief of those who are out of employment. Many of the profession and the younger branch would be glad to render their aid in supporting such an institution, particularly those who are in office, as they themselves at a future day might require the aid of the society's funds. We find there is a society for merchant clerks, as also the provident law clerks, and why should we feel too proud to establish the architects' clerk society? J.

*** What has become of the memorial forwarded to the institute some time ago, begging the council to assist in the establishment of an architects' benevolent fund?

ARMY AND NAVY CLUB-HOUSE, PALL MALL.—The new building, from the design of Messrs. Parnell and Smith, and of which we gave an engraving some time since,* is about to be commenced. The following is a list of the tenders delivered for the carcass:—

Lee	£21,890
Armstrong and Smith	21,355
Lock and Nesham	21,200
W. Cubitt	20,750
Baker	20,450
Trego	19,656

* See p. 519, Vol. V.

Correspondence.

SEWERS IN BERMONDSEY.

SIR,—I see in my last number of THE BUILDER, that Mr. Drew says he is not aware of any complaint having been made of the filthy state of the ditches at the back of the nunnery at Dockhead, Bermondsey. I assure you there has been a continued outcry for years for a sewer in that district, and concerning the filthy state of the streets thereabouts, and Mr. Drew must know that the Commissioners, when applied to, have always said they had no funds for that purpose. Rites and taxes have been paid for these streets for at least sixteen years, during which time they have been in the same filthy state as at present; and the ratepayers think that they are not dealt justly by, especially when they hear that the Commissioners are about to pay their clerk 1,900*l.* for compensation for a part only of his office, which sum, if properly applied, would be sufficient to clear the mud from every poor man's house in Bermondsey. Hoping that you will find room for this in your journal, that this statement of facts may follow Mr. Drew's assertion, so that the inhabitants may not be condemned as well as neglected.—I am, Sir, &c.,

Bermondsey. JOHN LUGG.

REVIVAL OF MONUMENTAL BRASSES.

SIR,—We were somewhat surprised to see in THE BUILDER, of Saturday, the 4th inst., an account of the revival of ornamental brasses, by Mr. Archer, written in a manner which would lead to an inference that he alone had conduced to such an end. Now this is far from being the case, for if the merit of their re-introduction belong to any, it must certainly be ascribed to Messrs. Hardman, of Birmingham (under the direction of Mr. Pugin) by whom a great number have been executed. And that we may claim some share in the matter will be allowed from the fact of our having executed nearly forty brasses, amongst which are many effigies, with canopies, &c. Mr. Archer's first brass at Caius College cannot be called a revival, as it is scarcely more than a large etching, and not in the spirit of the "olden time."—We are, Sir, &c. J. G. and L. A. B. WALLER.

20, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital,
March 9, 1848.

Miscellanea.

AN EXHIBITION OF BOOK-FINISHERS' DESIGNS was held by a committee of the London Book-finishers' Association, on Monday evening, at the Plough Tavern, Museum-street, where there was a good display of rubbings from ancient and modern specimens of the art, and of new designs, both original or modern, and also imitative of those elaborate decorations with which the learned monks of old delighted, themselves, to illuminate and adorn their biblical treasures. Where variety and taste, as well as ingenuity, were so generally displayed, it might be invidious to distinguish any one of the modern specimens which most struck our fancy; but amongst the ancient, there is less occasion for reserve, and we may therefore remark, that the one specimen amongst all of these which we most admired, was a rubbing from the boards of an Irish book nearly eight hundred years older than any other in the room. In this preference we believe we shall be borne out by many of the intelligent practical men present, as well as in our next selection of a geometrical design, with a quiver in the centre, from amongst the 'Diana' patterns. A member of the committee delivered an able and interesting address on the history, the capabilities, and the prospects of their art, as a high and elaborate branch of decorative art in general, and in course of his observations on the *esprit du corps*, the taste, and the pride, which animate some, and ought to animate all, of his fellow-workmen in the execution of their more elaborate and original designs, he took occasion to refer them appositely to some remarks in THE BUILDER, on the retrogradation of certain other arts, and on its causes. This exhibition, as the first of its order, promises fairly for the future advancement of a tasteful branch of decorative art.

For more information on OCR and PDF Compression visit ThePaperlessOffice.org